

Applicants : Lorna W. Role et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 09/312,596
Filed : May 14, 1999
Page 2

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether an agent is capable of modulating the binding of a nARIA polypeptide having the sequence identified as SEQ ID. NO:4 to a receptor selected from the group consisting of erbB2, erbB3 and erbB4, which method comprises:

- (a) contacting the nARIA polypeptide with the agent and a receptor selected from the group consisting of erbB2, erbB3 and erbB4, under conditions permitting the binding of the nARIA polypeptide to the receptor;
- (b) measuring the amount of nARIA polypeptide in step (a) bound to the receptor; and
- (c) comparing the amount so measured in step (b) to the amount of the nARIA polypeptide which would bind to the receptor if in the absence of such ~~the~~ agent, a difference in the amounts ~~determined in step (b) and~~ ~~(c)~~ indicating that the agent modulates the binding of the nARIA polypeptide to the receptor.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the

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Page 3

nARIA polypeptide is bound to an affinity derivative.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the receptor is bound to an affinity derivative.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein step (b) comprises the use of an antibody specific for the nARIA polypeptide.
34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 or 32, wherein the affinity derivative is selected from the group consisting of sepharose, cellulose, plastic, glass, glass beads or streptavidin-coated plastic.